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ABSTRACT

This document identifies characteristics of war veterans enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point campus. Data obtained from enrollments, geographic origins, age, marital status, class, teaching intent, high school rank, ACT (American College Testing) scores, and college of study. Characteristics of the veterans suggest most came from out of the state. More than half are married. Only about 17% of those responding to the question of teaching intent do plan to become teachers. Statistical data are included. (MJM)

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Enrollments

Geographic Origins

Age

Marital Status

Class

Teaching Intent

H.S. Rank

ACT Scores

College

CANNONS TO SHEEPSKINS

Characteristics of War Veteran Students

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PREFACE

The university population is made up of many diverse sub-populations, each of which has its own characteristics and needs. One of these groups, quite numerous in many higher education institutions in 1973, consists of youth attending school under the G.I. bill, our war veterans. The return of war veterans to school began after World War I and was a significant part of the college attendance boom after World War II. After 1950 the Korean War veterans were added. Today's war veterans may be less noticed, but they do make up nearly ten per cent of the enrollments of some higher education institutions.

Since war veterans have certain characteristics and certain needs, it is advisable to learn more about them. It is a purpose of this study to identify characteristics of war veterans enrolled on the Stevens Point campus.

Today's war veterans do not stand out in the crowd of college students. They do not wear signs saying "I am a veteran of the Vietnam War." Only casual records concerning veterans are found in the registrar's files. It was necessary to go to printouts of enrollment data through the use of names and social security numbers to obtain data. War veterans are not identified in printout codes.

Trends In Veteran Enrollments

The fluctuation in war veteran college enrollments is seen in a recent 14-year period selected for study. The enrollments follow the history of the wars. In 1959-60 the number of Korean War veterans on the Stevens Point campus was dropping rapidly. By 1965, very few war veterans were left on campus. Then came our increased involvement in the Vietnam War. As shown in Table 1 and Chart 1, the number of war veterans on campus increased from 5 (in 1965) to 692 (in 1972). As shown in Chart 2, the summer session of 1965 enrolled only two veterans, while the 1972 summer session enrolled 279.

It should be noted that only the enrollment part of this study is longitudinal. The description of war veteran characteristics is cross-sectional, and concerns those who were enrolled during the 1972-73 school year. This is because veteran characteristics of various time periods are difficult to obtain.

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY
(ACADEMIC YEAR - SEMESTER I & II) & (SUMMER SESSION BY YEAR)
(UNDER G.I. BILL OR REHABILITATION)

Year	Sem. I	Sem. II	Year	Summer Session
1959-60	158	138	1959	46
1960-61	90	86	1960	26
1961-62	64	48	1961	24
1962-63	31	24	1962	15
1963-64	11	11	1963	9
1964-65	9	4	1964	6
1965-66	5	5	1965	2
1966-67	184	NA	1966	71
1967-68	231	NA	1967	60
1968-69	201	252	1968	62
1969-70	332	345	1969	132
1970-71	400	445	1970	182
1971-72	620	663	1971	273
1972-73	661	692	1972	279

CHART 1

NUMBER OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY
SEMESTER AND ACADEMIC YEAR

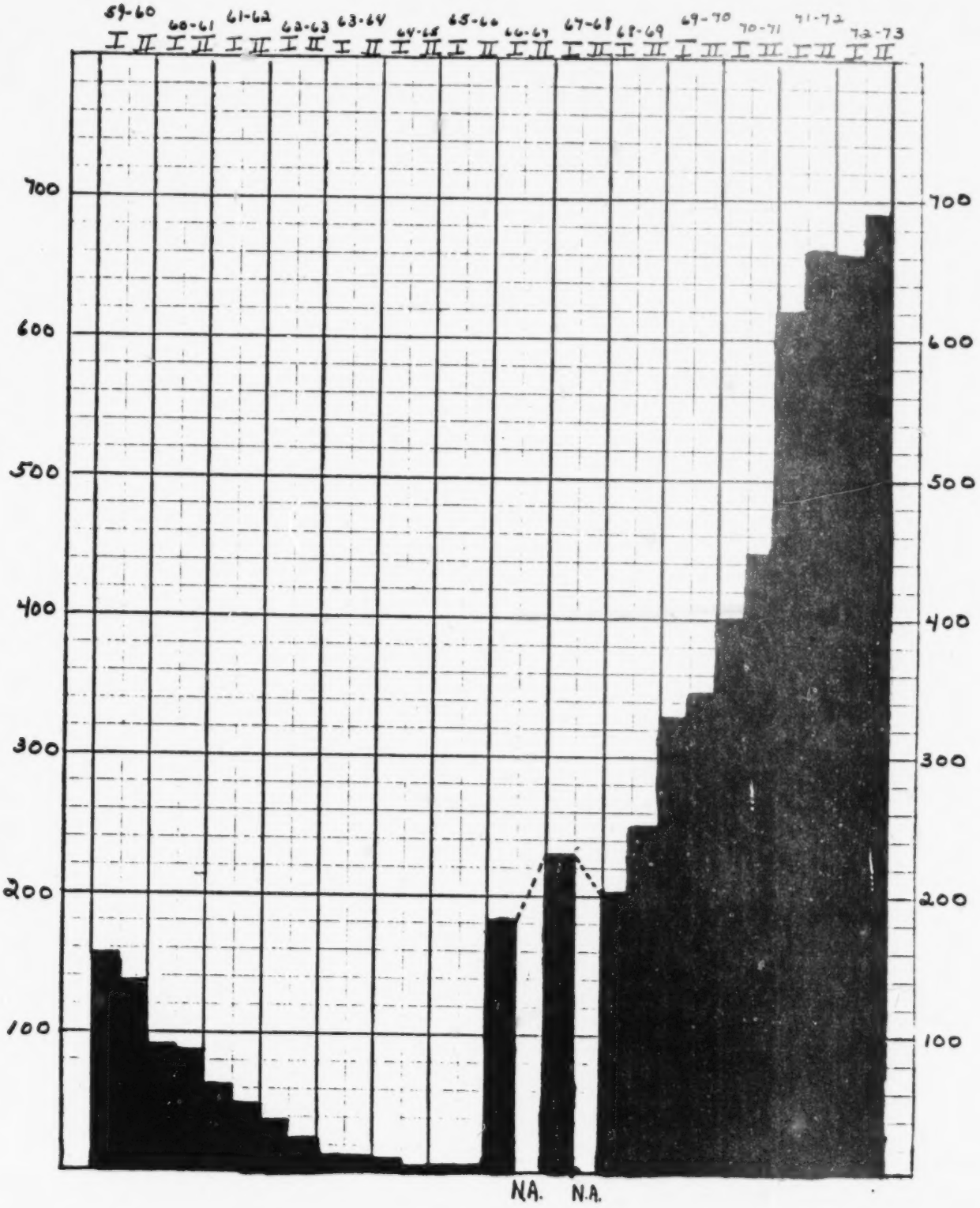
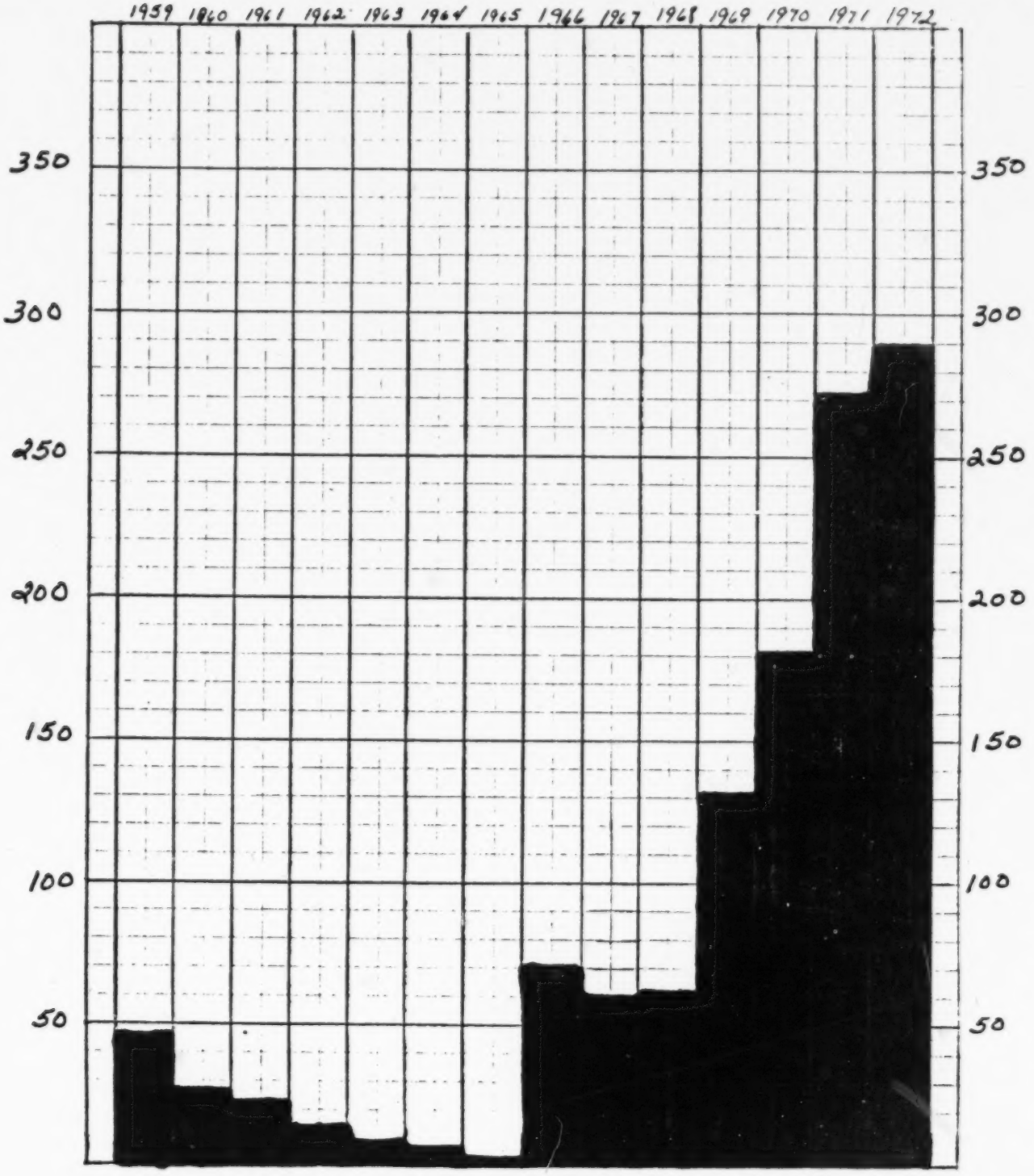


CHART 2

NUMBER OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS -

SUMMER SESSION BY YEAR



Geographic Origins

One of the characteristics of war veterans that differs appreciably from other students is their place of residence. Most students give out-of-town addresses, but veterans are generally older and many are married. From Table 2 it is apparent that a good many veterans live in or near Stevens Point. Of the 692 veterans, 304 or 43% are listed with Stevens Point or Plover. Nearby cities and villages including Wisconsin Rapids, Junction City, Amherst, Almond, and Mosinee add up to enough names to indicate that the great majority of veterans are either commuters or residents of the Stevens Point area. Of the 692 veterans for whom addresses were given, 412 or 59.5% gave addresses that were 30 miles or less from Stevens Point.

Chart 3 is a map of Wisconsin which shows how many veterans had residence in each county at the time of their high school graduation. It is interesting to note that at least 24, or about 3%, came from outside the state. So a higher per cent of veterans than other students came from outside Wisconsin. Although Portage, Wood, and Marathon counties are among those from which the most veterans came, quite a few came from Milwaukee County or other remote parts of the state.

TABLE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS

BY CITY ADDRESS, 1972-73

City Address	Count of Veterans	City Address	Count of Veterans
None	14	Delavan	1
Abbotsford	1	Dellwood	1
Adams	1	De Pere	2
Almond	2	Edgar	1
Amherst	3	Eland	2
Amherst Jct.	4	Ephraim	1
Antigo	10	Ettrick	2
Appleton	2	Fond du Lac	3
Arkdale	1	Franklin	1
Bancroft	2	Fremont	2
Baraboo	1	Gleason	1
Bayfield	1	Glendale	1
Beaver Dam	2	Glidden	2
Beloit	2	Grantsburg	1
Brandon	1	Green Bay	6
Bruce	1	Greenfield	2
Bryant	1	Hamburg	1
Cable	1	Hatley	1
Cambridge	1	Helenville	1
Campbellsport	1	Horicon	1
Chili	1	Iola	1
Chilton	2	Iron River	1
Chippewa Falls	1	Janesville	1
Clintonville	3	Johnson Creek	1
Coloma	1	Junction City	8
Columbus	2	Kaukauna	2
Cornell	1	Keshena	1
Crandon	4	Kiel	1
Custer	1	Lac du Flambeau	1
De Forest	1	La Crosse	4

TABLE 2 - Continued

City Address	Count of Veterans	City Address	Count of Veterans
Lancaster	1	Oconto	3
Lannon	1	Ogdensburg	4
Lena	1	Omro	1
Little Chute	1	Oshkosh	1
Lodi	1	Oxford	2
Loganville	1	Park Falls	2
Loyal	1	Phillips	3
Madison	9	Pittsville	1
Maiden Rock	1	Plainfield	1
Manitowoc	1	Plover	27
Marinette	1	Plymouth	1
Marshfield	13	Portage	3
Mauston	1	Port Edwards	3
McFarland	1	Port Washington	1
Medford	1	Poynette	1
Menasha	1	Racine	8
Menomonee Falls	2	Redgranite	1
Mercer	1	Reedsburg	1
Merrill	4	Reedsville	1
Merrillan	1	Rhinelander	7
Middleton	2	Rio	1
Milladore	1	Rosholt	3
Milwaukee	11	Rothschild	1
Minocqua	2	Rudolph	3
Minong	1	Saint Francis	1
Mosinee	9	Scandinavia	1
Mountain	1	Schofield	6
Neenah	2	Shawano	3
Neillsville	2	Sheboygan	4
Nekoosa	3	Shorewood	1
Nelsonville	1	Stevens Point	277
New Berlin	1	Stoughton	1
New London	1	Sturgeon Bay	1
Niagara	3	Stratford	1

TABLE 2 - Continued

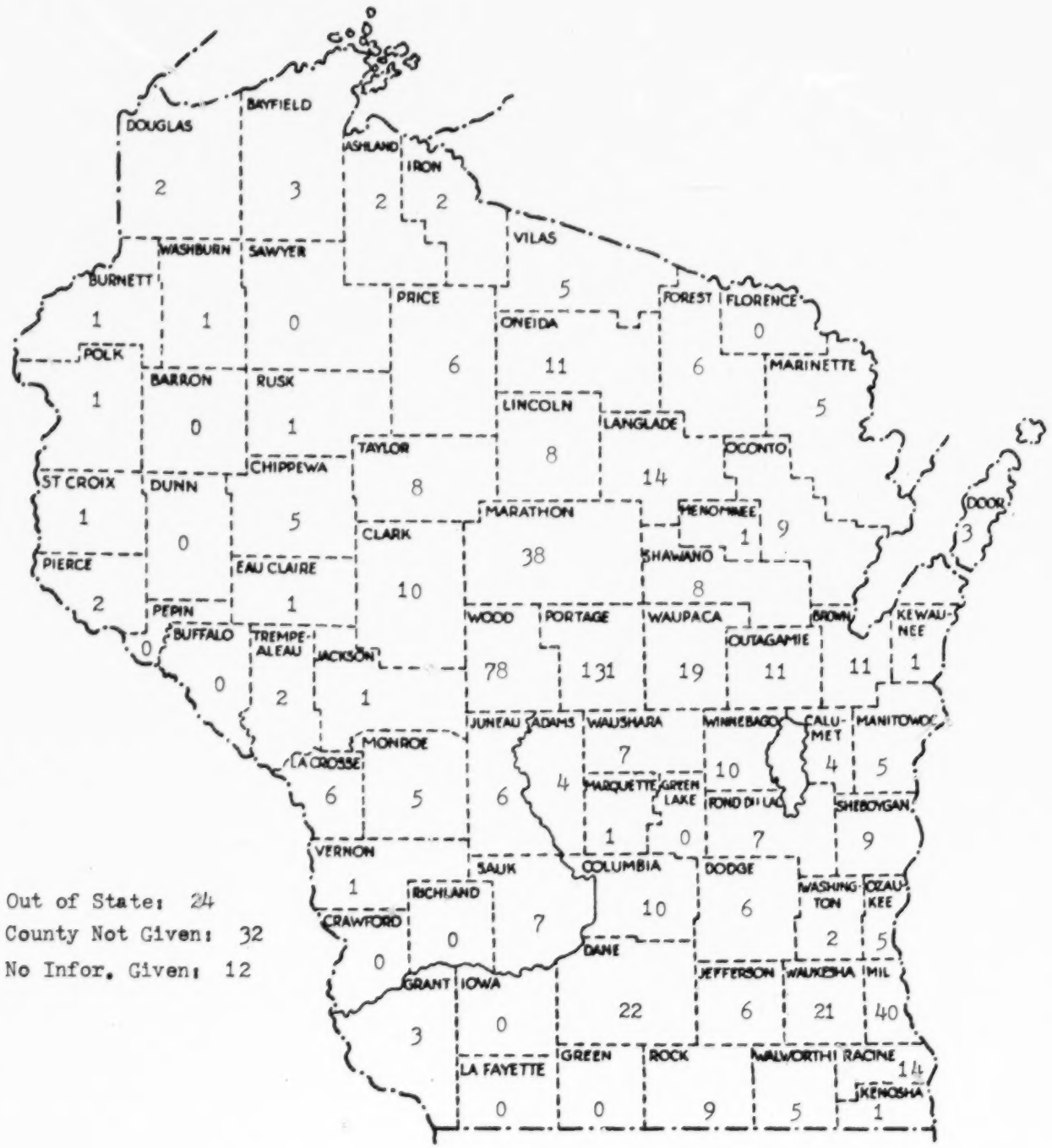
City Address	Count of Veterans	City Address	Count of Veterans
Superior	1	Denver	1
Thorp	1	Armstrong Creek	1
Tomah	3	TOTAL	692
Townsend	1		
Two Rivers	1		
Union Grove	1		
Unity	1		
Waterford	1		
Waterloo	1		
Waukesha	3		
Waupaca	5		
Wausau	13		
Wautoma	2		
West Bend	1		
Westboro	2		
Weyauwega	1		
Whitewater	2		
Whiting	2		
Wild Rose	2		
Wisconsin Dells	1		
Wisconsin Rapids	43		
Wittenberg	3		
Wonewoc	1		
Woodruff	2		
Wrightstown	1		
Calumet City	1		
Glenview	2		
Grand Forks	1		
New Cumberland	1		
Colby	1		
Hales Corners	1		
Randolph	1		
Arlington	1		
Elderon	1		
Hayward	2		

CHART 3

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

AT TIME OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

1972-73



Out of State: 24

County Not Given: 32

No Infor. Given: 12

General Characteristics

Some general characteristics of the 692 veterans are described in the following tables. Table 3 shows what is known about residence status at time of admission. The great majority were residents of Wisconsin.

TABLE 3
DISTRIBUTION BY RESIDENCY (AT TIME OF APPLICATION OR REAPPLICATION)

	No. of Veterans
Residents of Wisconsin While Enrolled	553
Non-Residents	29
Not Listed	98
No Information Given	12
TOTALS	692

Table 4 shows the home state of these veterans as they themselves reported on veteran enrollment forms. Here we see that nearly all of the veterans consider themselves Wisconsin residents.

TABLE 4
HOME STATE REPORTED BY VETERANS

	No. of Veterans
Wisconsin	675
Illinois	1
Iowa	1
North Dakota	1
West Virginia	1
No Home State Given	1
No Information Given	12
TOTALS	692

TABLE 5
DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY
MARITAL STATUS & SEX, 1972-73

Marital Status	Sex		
	Males	Females	Total
Married	340	8	348
Single	319	11	330
No Marital Status Given	2	0	2
No Information Given	0	0	12
TOTALS	661	19	692

The above table shows that a slight majority of the veterans are married, though more than half of the women were single.

The age of the students classed as war veterans varies from 18 to 42. The inclusion of a few war orphans in the total listing probably explains how some very young students are listed as veterans. The mean age of the veterans is about twenty-five and one-half years, as shown in Table 6. The modal age is 25.

TABLE 6

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS

BY AGE AND SEX, 1972-73

Age (As of January, 1973)	Sex		
	Men	Women	Total
18	0	2	2
19	5	2	7
20	10	2	12
21	18	3	21
22	42	2	44
23	74	2	76
24	105	0	105
25	135	1	136
26	120	0	120
27	50	0	50
28	30	1	31
29	11	0	11
30	14	0	14
31	10	0	10
32	5	2	7
33	3	0	3
34	4	0	4
35	1	2	3
36	7	0	7
37	4	0	4
38	3	0	3
39	3	0	3
40	1	0	1
42	1	0	1
49	1	0	1
No Age Given	4	0	4
No Infor. Given	0	0	12
TOTALS	661	19	692
*MEAN AGE	25.49	23.89	25.44

*Excluding: No Age Given and No Information Given

This and the following Tables include 12 cases for which no information is given for any columns but Total.

Age Related To Other Characteristics

Since age of war veterans is a characteristic having considerable variability, it is related here to various other characteristics. In Table 7, age is related to class status. The table shows that entering freshmen veterans ranged in age from 18 to 38, with half of them in the 22-24 age range. The modal age for graduating seniors was 26, the same as for graduate students. War veterans in special programs totaled 76, and the modal age for this group was 25: the overall modal age.

Age of war veterans is related to teaching intent in Table 8. Only 104 have indicated their intention to become teachers, while 496 indicated they did not so intend, and 92 gave no response to this question on the veteran registration form. The "no response" group averaged 27.7 years old, compared to 25.8 years for those who said "yes" and 25.0 years for those who said "no" to question of whether or not they planned to become teachers.

TABLE 7

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY

AGE AND CLASS STATUS, 1972-73

Age (As of January, 1973)	Class Status											
	Fr. Sem. I	Fr. Sem. II	Soph. Sem. I	Soph. Sem. II	Jr. Sem. I	Jr. Sem. II	Sr. Sem. I	Sr. Sem. II	Grad.	Special	Not Given	Total
18	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
19	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	7
20	5	0	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
21	8	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	3	0	21
22	15	6	4	5	0	4	0	2	0	8	0	44
23	9	10	12	9	10	7	3	4	2	11	1	76
24	12	10	13	17	12	8	8	10	1	12	2	105
25	4	4	12	16	18	25	17	20	2	17	1	136
26	4	0	3	7	9	22	15	42	11	7	0	120
27	1	2	3	2	1	7	8	16	7	3	0	50
28	0	0	1	3	2	0	5	13	3	4	0	31
29	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	3	1	1	1	11
30	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	6	1	2	1	14
31	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	2	1	10
32	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	7
33	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
34	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
35	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3

TABLE 7 - Continued

Age (As of January, 1973)	Class Status											
	Fr. Sem. I	Fr. Sem. II	Soph. Sem. I	Soph. Sem. II	Jr. Sem. I	Jr. Sem. II	Sr. Sem. I	Sr. Sem. II	Grad.	Special	Not Given	Total
36	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	7
37	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	4
38	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
39	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
49	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No Age Given	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	66	34	61	62	60	85	64	119	44	76	9	692

TABLE 8

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY AGE AND TEACHING INTENT, 1972-73

Age (As of January, 1973)	Teaching Intent			
	Yes	No	Not Given	Total
18	0	2	0	2
19	3	4	0	7
20	4	7	1	12
21	7	13	1	21
22	5	37	2	44
23	8	61	7	76
24	15	80	10	105
25	20	102	14	136
26	14	97	9	120
27	2	41	7	50
28	7	20	4	31
29	3	5	3	11
30	4	8	2	14
31	4	4	2	10
32	1	4	2	7
33	1	0	2	3
34	0	1	3	4
35	0	1	2	3
36	2	3	2	7
37	1	1	2	4
38	0	1	2	3
39	1	1	1	3
40	1	0	0	1
42	0	0	1	1
49	1	0	0	1
No Age Given	0	3	1	4
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	104	496	80	692
*MEAN AGE	25.81	25.01	27.66	25.44

*Excluding: No Age Given and No Information Given

When age is related to high school decile rank, as in Table 9, we find that the average age by decile rank is very uniform for all deciles, the means ranging from 24.3 years for the second decile to 25.4 years for two of the lowest deciles. Thus high school rank and age of war veterans appear to be unrelated. The 69 veterans whose rank was not given appear to be a special case. We have no information on 12 other veterans. The remainder averaged much older than the veterans whose class rank is given. The mean age is 30.0 years and the range in age is 20 to 49.

Of particular interest is the distribution of class ranks. There were 85 veterans in the 40-49 decile and 82 in the 20-29 decile, but only 30 in the 90-99 decile. Thus it is clear that war veterans did not rank as high in their high school classes, on the average, as did students in general.

TABLE 9

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY

AGE AND HIGH SCHOOL DECILE RANK, 1972-73

Age (As of January, 1973)	High School Decile Rank											
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	Not Given	Total
18	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
19	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	7
20	1	0	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	0	1	12
21	1	0	3	5	3	1	0	2	4	0	2	21
22	2	2	6	5	8	4	2	6	4	3	2	44
23	5	11	6	3	11	8	9	12	6	2	3	76
24	6	8	17	15	8	13	14	10	5	6	3	105
25	6	13	16	13	20	13	25	11	8	6	5	136
26	3	6	17	16	20	13	14	12	5	6	8	120
27	4	4	6	7	4	7	7	3	1	2	5	50
28	2	2	4	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	8	31
29	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	11
30	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	14
31	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	5	10
32	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	7
33	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
34	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
35	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
36	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	7
37	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4

TABLE 9 - Continued

Age (As of January, 1973)	High School Decile Rank											
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	Not Given	Total
38	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
No Age Given	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	4
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	32	51	82	71	85	71	79	64	47	30	69	692
*MEAN AGE	24.88	25.34	25.38	25.06	24.94	24.83	25.16	24.76	24.33	25.06	29.46	25.44

*Excluding: No Age Given and No Information Given

When age of war veterans is related to college of study (Table 10), only slight age differences are observable. The Fine Arts majors averaged 26.53 years while Letters and Science majors averaged 25.01 years. Again we note that veterans in the "not given" category are older, with an average age of 28.33 years. There appears to be little evidence that older or younger students tend to select any particular college.

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY AGE AND COLLEGE, 1972-73

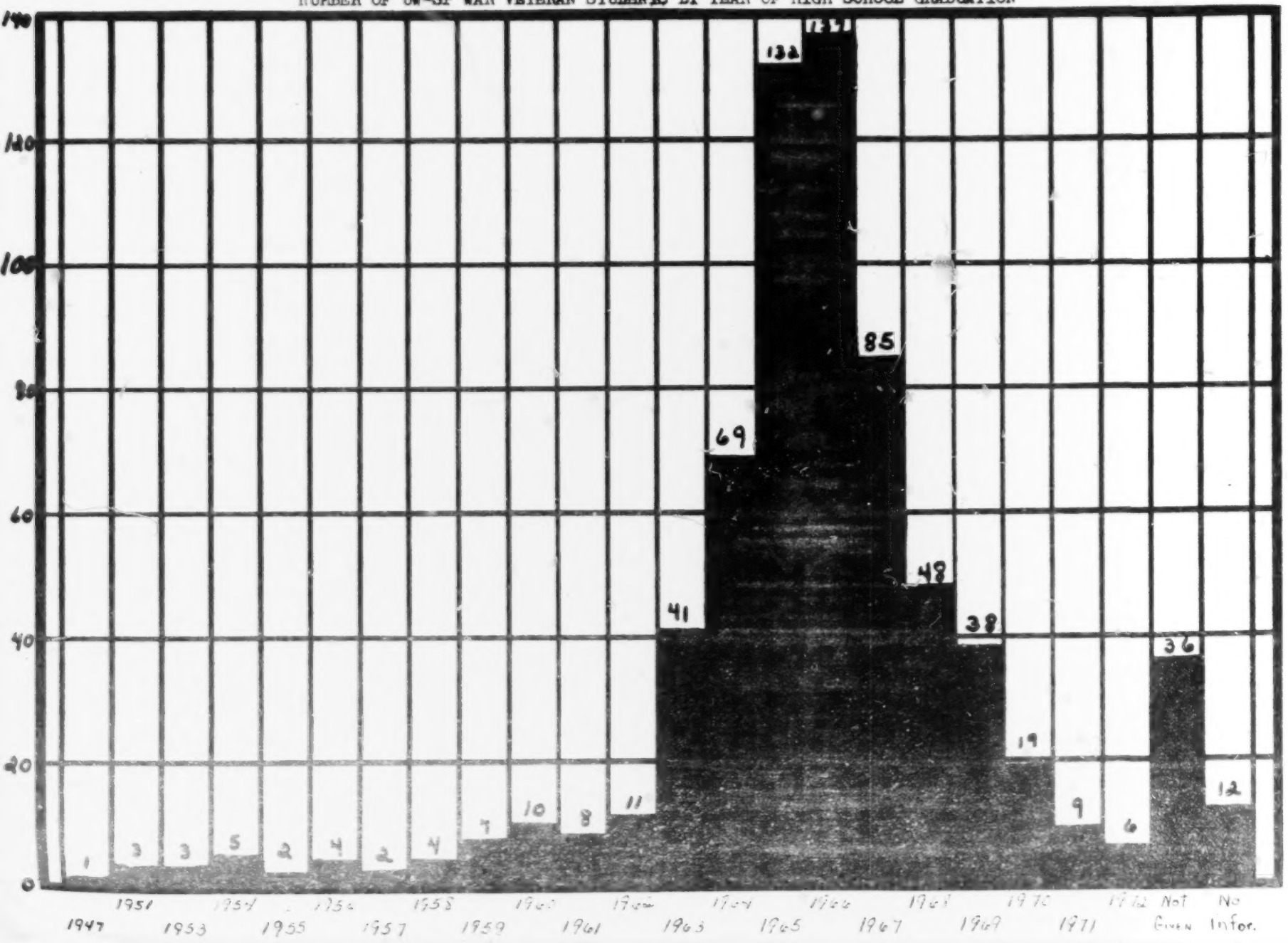
Age (As of January, 1973)	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
18	2	0	0	0	0	2
19	3	0	2	2	0	7
20	7	0	5	0	0	12
21	12	0	3	5	1	21
22	28	0	2	11	3	44
23	46	4	3	22	1	76
24	72	5	5	18	5	105
25	74	4	11	41	6	136
26	64	10	3	40	3	120
27	25	2	3	17	3	50
28	12	3	2	13	1	31
29	4	1	1	3	2	11
30	5	0	4	3	2	14
31	2	0	3	2	3	10
32	3	0	1	1	2	7
33	1	0	0	1	1	3
34	3	0	0	0	1	4
35	2	1	0	0	0	3
36	4	0	0	0	3	7
37	0	1	1	0	2	4
38	1	1	1	0	0	3
39	1	0	0	2	0	3
40	1	0	0	0	0	1
42	0	0	0	0	1	1
49	0	0	1	0	0	1
No Age Given	2	0	0	1	1	4
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692
*MEAN AGE	25.01	26.53	25.92	25.38	28.33	25.44

*Excluding: No Age Given and No Information Given

When we distribute numbers of war veterans by year of their high school graduation, the peak years are 1965 and 1966, as shown in Chart 4. The range is 1947 to 1972. There are 36 veterans for whom year of high school graduation was not given, and 12 others for whom no information whatever was given.

CHART 4

NUMBER OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



Teaching Intent

Teaching intent has been related to other characteristics of war veterans so that we may determine whether or not those who plan to enter teaching have different characteristics. Teacher intent is related to class status in Table 11. Perusal of this table shows almost as high a proportion of freshman intending to teach as there are seniors planning to teach. This suggests that veterans (who average older than other students) have largely made up their minds whether or not to become teachers by the time they enter or return to college.

Table 12 relates teacher intent to high school decile rank. When the chi-squared test is applied to this distribution with the "teacher intent not given" category included, $X^2 = 100.74$, showing great significance. This is because nearly half of the "teacher intent not given" category are veterans who ranked in the 0-9 decile of their high school class. When the "not given" category is excluded from the chi-squared computation, $X^2 = 18.63$ with 10 degrees of freedom. In this calculation, high school rank is clearly independent of teaching intent.

TABLE 11

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY CLASS STATUS AND TEACHING INTENT

Class Status	Teaching Intent			
	Yes	No	Not Given	Total
Freshmen Semester I	9	50	7	66
Freshmen Semester II	4	28	2	34
Sophomore Semester I	4	52	5	61
Sophomore Semester II	7	49	6	62
Junior Semester I	9	46	5	60
Junior Semester II	18	62	5	85
Senior Semester I	10	50	4	64
Senior Semester II	19	90	10	119
Graduates	7	17	20	44
Special	14	46	16	76
No Class Status Given	3	6	0	9
No Information Given	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	104	496	80	692

TABLE 12

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY

TEACHING INTENT AND HIGH SCHOOL DECILE RANK, 1972-73

Teaching Intent	High School Decile Rank											
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	Not Given	Total
Yes	(5.02) 4	(7.45) 3	(13.17) 17	(11.61) 12	(13.52) 8	(11.26) 7	(12.30) 17	(10.40) 10	(7.62) 7	(4.68) 6	(6.93) 13	104
No	(23.97) 25	(35.54) 40	(62.82) 59	(55.38) 55	(64.48) 70	(53.73) 58	(58.69) 54	(49.60) 50	(36.37) 37	(22.32) 21	(33.06) 27	496
No Teaching Intent Given	3	8	6	4	7	6	8	3	3	3	29	80
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	32	51	82	71	85	71	79	63	47	30	69	692

*X^2 = 18.63 Degrees freedom = 10 Reject chance

*Excluding: No Teaching Intent Given and No Information Given

Finally, teacher intent related to state of residence in Table 13. The great majority of war veteran students (at least 621) were known residents of Wisconsin. About half of the remainder were from Illinois. When Wisconsin vs out-of-state residence is related to teaching intent, the two variables are found to be independent. This means that the proportion who intend to teach is quite similar for Wisconsin and out-of-state veterans.

TABLE 13
DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY STATE (RESIDENCE AT APPLICATION) AND TEACHING INTENT, 1972-73

State (Residence at Application)	Teaching Intent			
	Yes	No	Not Given	Total
Wisconsin	97	473	51	621
Illinois	2	8	2	12
Iowa	1	3	0	4
New York	1	1	0	2
Indiana	0	1	0	1
Minnesota	0	2	0	2
Pennsylvania	0	1	0	1
Oklahoma	0	1	0	1
Texas	2	0	0	2
Ohio	0	1	0	1
Hawaii	0	1	0	1
No State Given	1	4	27	32
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	104	496	80	692

Veterans are distributed by teacher intent and college of enrollment in Table 14. As would be expected, the proportion of those who intend to teach is greatest for those enrolled in the College of Professional Studies. However, more than 80% of the veterans are enrolled in the colleges of Letter and Science and Natural Resources. In fact 54% are L&S students.

TABLE 14
DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY TEACHING INTENT AND COLLEGE, 1972-73

Teaching Intent	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
Yes	59	4	25	6	10	104
No	277	21	20	159	19	496
No Teaching Intent Given	38	7	6	17	12	80
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692

Table 15 was prepared to determine whether or not out-of-state war veterans were choosing any particular college. It appears from the distributions of Table 15 that a significant number of out-of-state veterans chose the College of Natural Resources. Other than this, the proportion of out-of-state veterans enrolled in the various colleges is quite similar to the distribution of Wisconsin veterans.

TABLE 15

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY STATE (RESIDENCE AT APPLICATION) AND COLLEGE, 1972-73

State (Residence at Application)	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
Wisconsin	356	29	42	164	30	621
Illinois	5	0	1	6	0	12
Iowa	0	0	0	3	1	4
New York	1	1	0	0	0	2
Indiana	0	0	1	0	0	1
Minnesota	0	1	1	0	0	2
Pennsylvania	1	0	0	0	0	1
Oklahoma	0	0	0	1	0	1
Texas	0	0	2	0	0	2
Ohio	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hawaii	1	0	0	0	0	1
No State Given	10	1	4	8	9	32
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692

In an attempt to compare veteran student quality by college of enrollment, the researcher prepared Table 16. The mean ranks were estimated by using the midpoint of each high school decile rank as the rank value for each individual in the category. The mean rank was significantly lowest (39.8) for those whose college was not given. Very little difference in mean percentile rank is found among veterans enrolled in the four colleges, with means ranging from 51.8 for COPS enrollees to 48.2 for those enrolled in the College of Natural Resources. There were 69 veterans whose decile rank was not given.

TABLE 16
DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY HIGH SCHOOL RANK AND COLLEGE, 1972-73

High School Decile Rank	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
0-9%	20	1	3	6	2	32
10-19%	26	2	2	18	3	51
20-29%	47	3	5	22	5	82
30-39%	42	2	6	17	4	71
40-49%	46	3	5	29	2	85
50-59%	42	6	3	18	2	71
60-69%	43	4	8	18	6	79
70-79%	37	4	4	18	0	63
80-89%	27	0	7	12	1	47
90-99%	21	1	1	7	0	30
No Decile Rank Given	23	6	7	17	16	69
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692
*MEAN RANK	49.50	50.00	51.82	48.15	39.80	48.93

*Excluding: No Decile Rank Given and No Information Given

Measures Of Student Quality

The traditional measures of entering student quality are high school rank and test scores. When these measures are applied to war veterans enrolled in 1972-73, we can get some idea how they compare with the UW-SP student body in general.

The high school decile rank of war veterans is shown in profile in Chart 5. The positive skewness of this distribution quickly reveals that war veterans did not rank with college students in general who enter UW-Stevens Point. The lowest (0-9%ile) decile is the mode, which includes 101 cases compared to only 30 cases in the top decile. A second modal decile is the 40-49 range. When the mean percentile rank is computed using the midpoint of each decile, it is found to be 44.5 - about twenty points below the mean for the entire university.

Table 17 shows the distribution of war veterans' ACT subscores and composite scores. The "boxed-in" frequencies are crude modes which give some idea of the parameters of the scores. These modal values are: English, 20; mathematics, 18; social science, 25; natural science, 27; composite, 20; and total, 20. The mean standard scores tell a different story, and range from 18.62 in English to 23.53 in natural science. The ACT composite mean of 21.22 is below the overall student average of about 21.7. Only the natural science mean of veterans is above the national norms for institutions of the type to which UW-SP belongs. The ACT English scores are generally very low and range from 2 to 36. The ACT composite scores ranged from 7 to 30.

In summary the ACT scores of war veterans now in school, like their high school ranks, do not run very high.

CHART 5

NUMBER OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY

HIGH SCHOOL PERCENTILE RANK

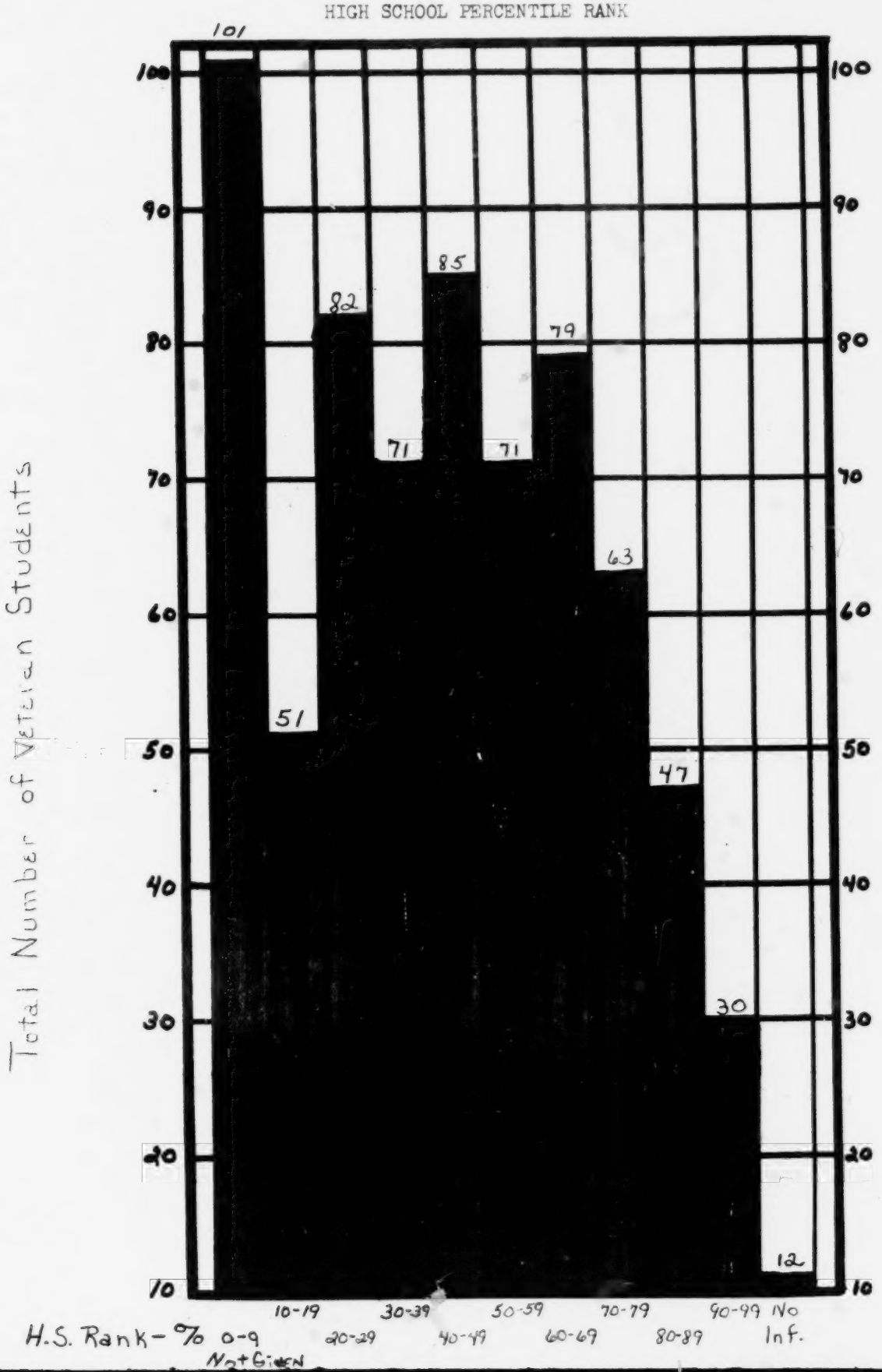


TABLE 17

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY ACT SCORES AND SUBSCORES; COMPOSITE SCORES

ACT Scores	Subscores				Composite	Total
	English	Math.	S.S.	Nat. Sci.		
01	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	1	1	1	0	0	3
03	0	0	0	0	0	0
04	0	1	2	0	0	3
05	0	0	1	0	0	1
06	1	1	2	0	0	4
07	3	0	1	0	1	5
08	1	1	5	0	1	8
09	4	1	4	0	3	12
10	1	6	5	2	0	14
11	9	4	5	4	1	23
12	12	12	4	5	1	34
13	11	7	3	5	5	31
14	27	8	6	7	7	55
15	23	18	8	7	13	69
16	21	20	16	11	7	75
17	33	30	16	12	32	123
18	41	36	15	18	24	134
19	55	28	26	30	37	176
20	58	23	32	26	54	193
21	35	25	36	26	36	158
22	31	26	39	24	46	166
23	18	25	28	26	38	135
24	18	27	36	31	41	153
25	12	28	40	39	18	137
26	7	16	27	33	26	109
27	5	23	24	45	24	121
28	1	16	15	27	5	64
29	1	13	11	23	8	56
30	0	12	11	14	2	39
31	0	11	9	5	0	25

TABLE 17 - Continued

ACT Scores	Subscores				Composite	Total
	English	Math.	S.S.	Nat. Sci.		
32	0	6	0	5	0	11
33	0	2	0	2	0	4
34	0	2	0	2	0	4
35	0	0	1	1	0	2
36	1	1	1	0	0	3
No ACT Scores Given	250	250	250	250	250	1250
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	680	680	680	680	680	3412
*MEAN SCORE	18.62	21.45	20.17	23.53	21.22	21.39

*Excluding: No ACT Scores Given and No Information Given

We turn now to the ACT scores of veterans related to teaching intent, as shown in Table 18. The scores have, in this table, been lumped into categories and related to teacher intent through responses "yes", "no", and no response. Some 250 veterans did not have ACT scores, and this group accounted in part for the large chi-squared values found in Table 18. In the distribution of ACT English scores, probably the closest relationship is found between two kinds of non-response: ACT score not given and teaching intent not given. The scores themselves do not appear to be related to teaching intent. Much the same findings are observed when mathematics, social science, natural science, and composite ACT scores are related to teaching intent. When the ACT composite scores are related to teaching intent however, the discrepancy between expected and observed values among students with high composite ACT scores becomes noticeable. More than the expected number of high scorers said they did not intend to become teachers. This tendency is present in less marked degree in ACT subtest distributions. It indicates that there is not a very strong tendency for veterans with highest test scores to become teachers. Many of them are choosing some other vocation.

TABLE 18

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY TEACHING INTENT AND ACT SCORES, 1972-73

Teaching Intent	English ACT Scores				
	0-9	10-19	20-36	Not Given	Total
Yes	(1.52) 2	(35.63) 28	(28.60) 30	(38.23) 44	104
No	(7.29) 8	(169.95) 185	(136.40) 140	(182.35) 163	496
No Teaching Intent Given	(1.17) 0	(27.41) 20	(22.00) 17	(29.41) 43	80
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	10	233	187	250	692

*X^2 = 17.18 Degrees freedom = 6 Reject chance

Teaching Intent	Math ACT Scores					
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-36	Not Given	Total
Yes	(0.76) 0	(25.84) 24	(33.95) 33	(5.20) 3	(38.23) 44	104
No	(3.64) 5	(123.27) 130	(161.92) 166	(24.80) 30	(182.35) 163	496
No Teaching Intent Given	(0.58) 0	(19.88) 15	(26.11) 21	(4.00) 1	(29.41) 43	80
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	5	169	222	34	250	692

*X^2 = 18.14 Degrees freedom = 8 Reject chance

TABLE 18 - Continued

Teaching Intent	Social Science ACT Scores					
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-36	Not Given	Total
Yes	(2.44) 1	(15.90) 13	(44.04) 37	(3.36) 9	(38.23) 44	104
No	(11.67) 14	(75.85) 85	(210.07) 223	(16.04) 11	(182.35) 163	496
No Teaching Intent Given	(1.88) 1	(12.23) 6	(33.88) 28	(2.58) 2	(29.41) 43	80
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	16	104	288	22	250	692

*X^2 = 29.86 Degrees freedom = 8 Reject chance

Teaching Intent	Natural Science ACT Scores				
	0-19	20-29	30-36	Not Given	Total
Yes	(15.44) 14	(45.88) 42	(4.43) 4	(38.23) 44	104
No	(73.67) 76	(218.82) 233	(21.15) 24	(182.35) 163	496
No Teaching Intent Given	(11.88) 11	(35.29) 25	(3.41) 1	(29.41) 43	80
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	101	300	29	250	692

*X^2 = 15.85 Degrees freedom = 6 Reject chance

TABLE 18 - Continued

Teaching Intent	Composite ACT Scores				
	0-9	10-19	20-36	Not Given	Total
Yes	(0.76) 1	(19.57) 17	(45.42) 42	(38.23) 44	104
No	(3.64) 4	(93.36) 101	(216.63) 228	(182.35) 163	496
No Teaching Intent Given	(0.58) 0	(15.05) 10	(34.94) 27	(29.41) 43	80
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	5	128	297	250	692

*X^2 = 15.19 Degrees freedom = 6 Reject chance

*Excluding: No Information Given

A more direct method of relating veterans' vocational plans to ACT scores is given in Table 19 which relates ACT scores to colleges in which veterans are enrolled. The chi-squared values for these variables are all highly significant, but again part of the significance can be accounted for by non-response cells. The distribution for ACT English subtest scores serves as an example. For all but L&S majors, there are fewer than the expected number of veterans in 20-36 test score range. (Expected numbers are found in parentheses; they are proportionate to the totals shown in the margins.) This means that veterans with high ACT scores tend to enroll in L&S. Those with low ACT scores or no ACT scores were more likely to enroll in the other colleges.

The distributions for English, mathematics and ACT composite scores differs from the social science and natural science scores. Because there were few scores in the 30-36 range, the ranges were combined into a 20-36 range in order to avoid small and zero cells. Only the College of Letters and Science have very many veterans whose ACT social science and natural science scores were in the 30-36 range. We must conclude that L&S students do tend to have the highest ACT test scores.

TABLE 19

DISTRIBUTION OF UW-SP WAR VETERAN STUDENTS BY ACT SCORES AND COLLEGE, 1972-73

English ACT Scores	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
0-9	(5.50) 4	(0.47) 0	(0.75) 2	(2.67) 3	(0.60) 1	10
10-19	(128.15) 138	(10.96) 8	(17.47) 10	(62.36) 71	(14.04) 6	233
20-36	(102.85) 124	(8.80) 9	(14.02) 12	(50.05) 38	(11.27) 4	187
No ACT Scores Given	(137.50) 108	(11.76) 15	(18.75) 27	(66.91) 70	(15.07) 30	250
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692

*X^2 = 51.84 Degrees freedom = 12 Reject chance

Math ACT Scores	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
0-19	(95.70) 100	(8.18) 6	(13.05) 13	(46.57) 51	(10.49) 4	174
20-29	(122.10) 139	(10.44) 10	(16.65) 10	(59.41) 56	(13.38) 7	222
30-36	(18.70) 27	(1.60) 1	(2.55) 1	(9.10) 5	(2.05) 0	34
No ACT Scores Given	(137.50) 108	(11.76) 15	(18.75) 27	(66.91) 70	(15.07) 30	250
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692

*X^2 = 47.99 Degrees freedom = 12 Reject chance

TABLE 19 - Continued

Social Science ACT Scores	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
0-9	(8.80) 7	(0.75) 0	(1.20) 1	(4.28) 7	(0.96) 1	16
10-19	(57.20) 64	(4.89) 2	(7.80) 5	(27.83) 31	(6.27) 2	104
20-29	(158.40) 181	(13.55) 13	(21.60) 17	(77.08) 70	(17.36) 7	288
30-36	(12.10) 14	(1.03) 2	(1.65) 1	(5.88) 4	(1.32) 1	22
No ACT Scores Given	(137.50) 108	(11.76) 15	(18.75) 27	(66.91) 70	(15.07) 30	250
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692

*X^2 = 48.66 Degrees freedom = 16 Reject chance

Natural Science ACT Scores	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
0-19	(55.55) 67	(4.75) 3	(7.57) 8	(27.03) 21	(6.08) 2	101
20-29	(165.00) 178	(14.11) 13	(22.50) 14	(80.29) 86	(18.08) 9	300
30-36	(15.95) 21	(1.36) 1	(2.17) 2	(7.76) 5	(1.74) 0	29
No ACT Scores Given	(137.50) 108	(11.76) 15	(18.75) 27	(66.91) 70	(15.07) 30	250
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692

*X^2 = 46.61 Degrees freedom = 12 Reject chance

TABLE 19 - Continued

Composite ACT Scores	College					
	L&S	FA	COPS	NR	Not Given	Total
0-19	(72.60) 80	(6.21) 2	(9.90) 7	(35.32) 40	(7.95) 3	132
20-36	(163.90) 186	(14.02) 15	(22.35) 17	(79.75) 72	(17.96) 8	298
No ACT Scores Given	(137.50) 108	(11.76) 15	(18.75) 27	(66.91) 70	(15.07) 30	250
No Infor. Given	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTALS	374	32	51	182	41	692

*X^2 = 44.55 Degrees freedom = 8 Reject chance

*Excluding: No Information Given

The characteristics of war veterans given here are limited in scope because of the limited data available. One further inspection of student quality reveals that about 8% or more of the veterans enrolled in the first semester of 1972-73 were suspended from school at the end of the second semester. These figures include upperclassmen. Here is clear evidence that the suspension rate is much higher for war veterans than for the student body as a whole.

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SUMMARY

War veterans are becoming an increasingly important segment of the student population of UW-Stevens Point. Rick Adams, a man who now works closely with these veterans, estimates that they will constitute about ten per cent of the student population in 1973-74. At least 692 veterans are known to have been enrolled during semester 2, 1972-73.

Not very much attention has been paid to these veterans: most people on campus do not know who these veterans are. This appears to be true on other campuses. A bulletin from the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs, WISVET OUTREACH, has this comment: "There's an old saying, 'Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.' Like the weather, the plight of the Vietnam era veteran has generated its share of rhetoric, but affirmative action has been light and fragmented." It is not the function of research to conduct such action. Research is fact finding upon which action may be reasonably based. The literature reveals that although there are many G.I. Bill benefits, relatively fewer Vietnam War veterans are taking advantage of them; that these veterans are not heroes on college campuses even though they may have served their country well; and that many returning Vietnam veterans do not have salable job skills, but there is a tendency for them to take low level employment instead of pursuing a college education. Wisconsin's use rate for the G.I. Bill is 31%, compared to the national rate of 40%.* This research should help college administrators to know more about our war veterans on campus.

The 692 war veterans enrolled this past semester include 19 women. The range in age is from 18 to 49, but the great majority are clearly Vietnam War veterans, since 69% of them are known to have graduated from high school between 1963 and 1969. The average veteran student's age is between 25 and 26 years.

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*WISVET OUTREACH: A Plan for Affirmative Action, Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs, February 26, 1973.

The number of veterans enrolled at UW-SP dropped to as few as 5 during 1965-66. By this time nearly all the Korean War veterans had left college. Although the number of veterans enrolled increased rapidly, beginning in 1966, not all of them are using the G.I. Bill to finance their education. A report from the Office of Management Information (#1178, August, 1973) indicates that 101 veterans enrolled for the fall of 1973 are not using the G.I. Bill, while 572 other veteran enrollees are using the G.I. Bill. These data cannot yet be verified for accuracy.

These students who are war veterans originally came from all parts of the state and a few came from out of the state. Most of them now reside within 30 miles or less from Stevens Point. More than half of them are now married.

A distinct minority of the veterans have provided only a minimum of information about themselves. These veterans average much older than others.

Only about 17% of those responding to the question of teaching intent do plan to become teachers. More than half of the veterans (54%) are enrolled in the College of Letters and Science, with another 26% in the College of Natural Resources.

As a group, the war veterans had not distinguished themselves academically at the time they entered college. The mean high school percentile rank of those enrolled last semester was 44.5. Their ACT score means ranged from 18.62 for English, 23.53 in natural science, and with an ACT composite score mean of 21.22. This is far below the average for all students. It is also known that 8% of the number of veterans enrolled in the fall of 1972 were suspended from school in the spring of 1973. There is some tendency for the strongest students to be concentrated in the College of Letters and Science. Despite their low average performance, war veterans include some very outstanding students. Those veterans who survive the basic college courses, being older, may later distinguish themselves. This has happened in the past.

In summary, there are many problems that face today's war veterans. They are reluctant to enroll in college; in Wisconsin fewer than one-third have enrolled. Vietnam War veterans are not heroes on campus. Apparently some have not utilized the G.I. Bill. Many enter college not well equipped, as indicated by high school rank and ACT scores. But they are entitled to an education, and most of them will probably make good after some early difficulties. It is possible that these war veterans will make up as much as ten per cent of the student population at UW-Stevens Point.

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